

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

Get ready to rodeo

It's time for JSC employees to dust off their 10-gallon hats and shine their spurs for the upcoming rodeo season. The center will sponsor a variety of activities throughout the rodeo season. Working in concert with the NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood Go Texan committee, JSC hopes to support the commitment to youth and education.

On February 2, performers from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo speakers committee will entertain employees during lunchtime in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. Performances will include country and western singers, western bands, live animals, ropers (give it a try), rodeo clowns, and line dancers. Come on down and enjoy the free entertainment while you munch on the western-themed lunch specials at the cafeteria. Don't forget to wear your cowboy duds!

The monthlong festivities will continue with the arrival of the Texas Independence Trail Riders at 3 p.m. February 8. The trail riders will enter JSC through the Space Center Houston tram underpass by the Longhorn Project pasture. The JSC Circle Riders and Precinct 8 mounted patrol will meet them as they enter JSC.

About 150 horses and riders and 10 to 15 wagons will ride through the center, passing by the JSC Child Care Center and stopping at the Gilruth Center. The Texas Independence Trail Riders will set up camp for the night in the wooded area near the pavilion.

The NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood Go Texan committee will host a dinner dance from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. February 8

at Space Center Houston. This event will serve as the official welcome to the trail riders. Enjoy dining and dancing with Southern Way Band with Jerry Hart. The theme for this year's dance is "Mission Millennium – The Trail Ride." Tickets cost \$20 and include a barbecue dinner, two drinks, live music, plus the exhibits for viewing at Space Center Houston.

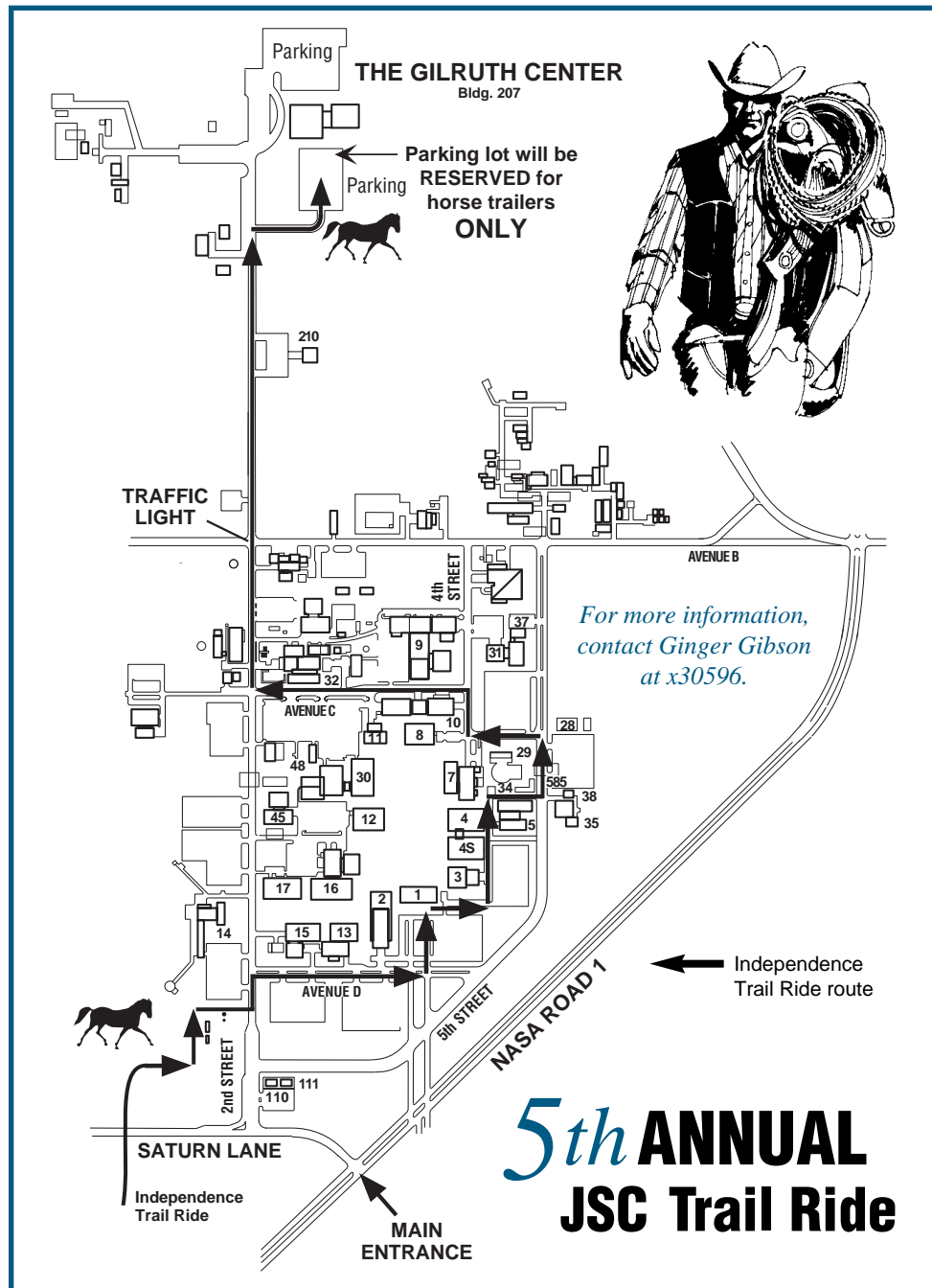
Tickets are available at the Exchange Stores. Proceeds go to the scholarship program of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to help provide seven \$10,000 scholarships to NASA-area high school seniors for their college education.

The trail riders will depart JSC the next morning at 9 a.m. through Gate 4, near the 300/400 area, and travel through Clear Lake City on their way to their next overnight stop in Deer Park.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo runs from February 18 to March 5. Once again NASA will be represented at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Astrohall. Selected exhibits showcased from JSC's Inspection99 will adorn a 6,000-square-foot area on the west side of the Astrohall, and the new Technology Transfer exhibit trailer will be open for tours to educate the public on the "Benefits from Space." Contact Sandy Griffin at x31056 if you would like to help staff the exhibit.

Employees are encouraged to dress western every Friday during rodeo.

The Employees Activities Association in the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store will sell tickets to the rodeo performances. Call x35352 for more information. ■



Children's art calendar 2000 *fun, yet serious*

By Mary Peterson

Few things are as irresistible as children's artistic impressions and expressions – truthful, uninhibited, unselfconscious, never constrained by the standards adults apply to themselves. This spontaneity is the underlying charm of the Safety & Total Health Children's Art Calendar, now in its fourth year of production, and one of the most popular publications at JSC.

Winners of this year's calendar contest, 36 in all, along with parents and siblings, were treated to an awards party recently at Gilruth Center, which afforded a rare glimpse into the personalities of the creative kids who want us all to be safe and healthy throughout the coming year.

"How did you get the idea for your drawing?," a question put to Erich Paulos, 7, brought the response of experience. "Because I put a Beanie Baby on top of a lamp, and it almost caught on fire!" His poster, storyboard style, follows the smoking toy atop a lamp, to the sound of the smoke alarm, to the recommendation, "Put your Beanie on your bed instead of a lamp!," to the final admonition, "Play safe." Looking a little sheepish, Erich said he would never put a Beanie Baby on a lamp again.

Macy Osoria, 8, chose Christmas outdoor lighting as a theme because in her words, "I live in a biggggg house, about 10 rooms, that my friends get lost in (but I don't), and I thought about alllll those lights outside and that they could catch on fire!" Her poster very cleverly reminds "NOElectrical plugs overloaded."

Others, such as Herbert Henderson III, 10, Jennifer Reister, 8, Kristin Sherman, 9, and John Cao, 7, based their pictures on repeated warnings and teachings of mom and dad, all sterling examples that safety is being taught, and effectively so, in the home.

While the calendar would seem at first glance to be a collection of happy pictures that mostly evoke a

smile, one drawing catches the eye because of its serious subject – a car skidding perilously off a road with the sobering reminder, "Seat belts saved my family's lives December 25, 1998." Only 7 years old at the time, the near tragedy left an indelible impression on Codi Elizabeth Land, the young artist.

It was Christmas Eve, and the Land family was traveling to Sherman, Texas, on an urgent mission to see their dying grandfather one last time. Early weather warnings had indicated an ice storm was imminent, but the Lands thought they could arrive at their destination ahead of it. Nearing Sherman, they followed behind a trailer, all the while keeping a wary eye on the increasingly ice-slick road. Codi and her older sister, Christi, were riding in the back seat when the younger girl became uncomfortable and restless. Her seat belt was unbuckled for some

temporary relief, when Christi suddenly noticed the trailer traveling in an unwieldy manner. She quickly re-buckled her sister's seat belt and placed a pillow between them.

Seeing the increased swerving of the trailer, the girls' dad attempted to pass but lost control when changing lanes on the icy road. Mom gasped. Then, the unthinkable happened. The car flipped and rolled several times, landing upside down in a ditch. So crushed was the vehicle that the driver of the car following warned his passengers, "Don't get out. I'm sure they're all dead." The police, firemen, and Emergency Medical Services team could only wonder at their survival. Although there were injuries, some severe, the Land family is whole, thanks to the use of seat belts.

This is just one of many stories that this year's calendar holds and was among those celebrated at the winners' party. Kids were treated to refreshments and a very entertaining session with "Gismo," the Houston Police Department's lively, remote-controlled robot that not only talked about safety, but danced a mean macarena with them as well. Winners received a medal and a T-shirt personalized with their own artwork, while Astronaut John Casper provided autographed pictures. SR&QA's Perry Bennett served as master of ceremonies. ■



Codi Land and John Casper